

hate crimes legislation; they have shown it by cutting funding on programs that would provide meaningful opportunities, especially in education, especially in those areas where with additional investment we could help those who are disenfranchised and disadvantaged; they have shown it in their rulings in the Justice Department; they have shown it on virtually every single occasion when actions spoke louder than words. But of all of the times they have shown it, I don't know that they could have shown it any more unequivocally than they have shown it this afternoon.

So as I said, I am troubled, disheartened, and I am still looking for evidence that this administration truly means what it says; that this administration is willing to support by actions, rather than just by its rhetoric, meaningful change in civil rights and diversity in this country today.

THE OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I note that we are about ready to move to the omnibus appropriations bill. I know Senator BYRD is on the floor and we are awaiting Senator STEVENS. I must say that we have not yet seen the bill. So it will be very difficult for us to speak to the bill or amend the bill until we have had an opportunity to see it. This is an unusual situation in that we are taking a bill that really represents 11 appropriations bills to the floor in this manner. But I, as Senator BYRD, believe it is important for us to continue to get our work done and to move this process along. So I will not object, of course, to moving to the bill.

It is my understanding that deep cuts were made in a number of areas—in fact, across the board—to accommodate investments in election reform, drought assistance, and maybe other things. But we will not know until we see it. We will certainly have amendments, as I noted this morning. We will amend the bill in ways we have expressed earlier. Senator BYRD will have amendments on homeland defense. We will have amendments on education. We will certainly have amendments relating to other shortcomings in the dramatic cuts that will be reflected in this bill.

This cut across the board is doubly troubling to us. It may mean a significant cut in funds for veterans, for kids, for transportation. Before we come to any final conclusion, obviously, we need to see the details. It is my hope that we can begin the debate, look at the legislation, and, as we become more knowledgeable about the bill itself, offer amendments.

So I expect that could begin this afternoon, and I look forward to seeing the bill just as soon as our Republican friends can share it with us.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 2

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 2; further, that immediately upon the reporting of the bill Senator STEVENS be recognized in order to make his opening statement; I further ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senator STEVENS, Senator BYRD be recognized for an opening statement only; further, following those remarks, Senator STEVENS be recognized to offer an amendment; provided that the amendment be agreed to and be considered original text for the purpose of further amendment, with no points of order waived. I further ask unanimous consent that following any comments by Senator STEVENS, Senator BYRD be recognized in order to offer a first-degree amendment relating to homeland security; further, that when the Senate resumes consideration of the joint resolution tomorrow at 10 a.m., there be an additional 2 hours for debate, equally divided in the usual form, in relation to the pending Byrd amendment; provided further that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the Byrd amendment with no second-degree amendments in order to the amendment prior to the vote. I would finally ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of any additional amendments and the completion of any additional debate, the resolution be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the resolution, provided further that following passage, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate and that the conferees be the entire Appropriations Committee as proposed by the committee resolutions, with 15 Republicans and 14 Democratic members.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Madam President, on just a couple of housekeeping matters, I ask the majority leader, it appears we will have no morning business in the morning?

Mr. FRIST. That is correct.

Mr. REID. And it appears there will be no further rollcall votes tonight; the next vote will be tomorrow at noon.

Mr. FRIST. That is the understanding that is in the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the unanimous consent request? Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAJORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, let me also give my colleagues a very short update on progress made on the committee resolutions. As I said earlier, I think I said it last night and this morning, and I will say it once again, we are making progress. We are making progress, again, in a very cooperative, bipartisan way. I mentioned my previous conversations with the Democratic leader have set as our goal to have these committee resolutions passed as soon as possible, and everybody is working in good faith.

I am very hopeful that tonight—as they say, in 10 minutes, in 15, or in 30 minutes, but whenever final agreement is reached—I will come to the floor and I will be able to do that, and I expect to be able to do that by unanimous consent.

Again, it is confusing to people because we have the underlying committee resolutions. But by unanimous consent agreement, we are proceeding with this very important appropriations proposal and bill. I am glad we are addressing that. Again, we are making progress on that.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I would like to ask a question of either the manager of the bill or the majority leader.

According to the agreement, an up-or-down vote did not seem to be agreed to on the amendment.

Mr. STEVENS. No. We have agreed to have an up-or-down vote on the amendment.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Senator.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res 2) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, because of the circumstances, I really don't have a prepared statement. I wish to outline for the Senate how we intend to proceed. We have been working for some time trying to obtain a process by which we could proceed to act on the 11 appropriations bills for the fiscal year 2003 which were not completed by the end of the last Congress.

I commend my good friend from West Virginia and his staff for assistance in working with us to work out this procedure. These bills that will soon be included in an omnibus amendment to